



House of Representatives

File No. 721

General Assembly

January Session, 2001

(Reprint of File No. 412)

Substitute House Bill No. 5675
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 10, 2001

AN ACT CONCERNING MENINGITIS INFORMATION AND VACCINATIONS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 (NEW) (a) For the 2002-2003 school year, and each school year
2 thereafter, each public or private college or university in this state shall
3 require that each student who resides in on-campus housing be
4 vaccinated against meningitis as a condition of such residence. The
5 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any such student who
6 (1) presents a certificate from a physician stating that, in the opinion of
7 such physician, such vaccination is medically contraindicated because
8 of the physical condition of such student, or (2) presents a statement
9 that such vaccination would be contrary to the religious beliefs of such
10 student.

11 (b) For the 2002-2003 school year, and each school year thereafter,
12 each public or private college or university in this state shall (1)
13 provide information about meningitis to all prospective students prior
14 to their matriculation and include with that information notice of the
15 availability and benefits of a meningitis vaccine, and (2) develop

- 16 procedures for receiving and keeping a record of student vaccination
17 status.

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Minimal Impact

Affected Agencies: University of Connecticut, Connecticut State University

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation**State Impact:**

Assuming that state institutions of higher education, both private and public, are NOT responsible for providing any vaccinations, passage of the bill would result in a minimal fiscal impact to the agencies that could be absorbed within currently available resources. The impact is primarily related to the enforcement of the requirement for vaccination, any necessary record keeping and the distribution of information regarding meningitis. There are over 6,300 on-campus residents within the Connecticut State University System and approximately 9,000 at the University of Connecticut.

House Amendment "A" provides that the meningitis vaccination for on-campus residents will not be required until the 2002 - 2003 academic year and modifies the record keeping requirements included in the bill. These changes have no additional fiscal impact on the original bill.

OLR Amended Bill Analysis

sHB 5675 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING MENINGITIS INFORMATION AND VACCINATIONS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS.**SUMMARY:**

Beginning with the 2002-03 academic year, this bill requires all public and private colleges and universities in the state to require all students who live in on-campus residence halls to be vaccinated against meningitis, with two exceptions. These are if (1) a doctor certifies that a student's physical condition contraindicates vaccination or (2) a student presents a statement that vaccination is against his religious beliefs.

The bill also requires each public and private college and university to (1) inform all its prospective students before they matriculate about meningitis and the availability and benefits of the vaccine and (2) develop procedures for receiving and keeping records of students' vaccination status.

*House Amendment "A" pushes back, from the beginning of the 2001-02 academic year to the 2002-03 academic year, the date by which students must be vaccinated and schools must inform them about meningitis and the vaccine. It also modifies the schools' record-keeping requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

BACKGROUND***Meningitis***

There are two types of meningitis, bacterial and viral. The bacterial form can be severe and result in brain damage. The federal Centers for Disease Control has found college freshmen who live in dormitories to be at a moderately increased risk of meningitis relative to other people

their age. It recommends that (1) medical providers inform students and their parents about meningococcal disease and the benefits of vaccination and (2) vaccinations be provided or made easily available to those freshmen who wish to reduce their risk of disease.

Legislative History

The House referred the bill (File 412) to the Education Committee on April 27. That committee reported it favorably, unchanged, on May 2.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 20 Nay 4